WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of normalizing software usage data that is gathered in relation to the execution of software products on a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

5   running a first software and determining the capacity of the computer over time and obtaining computer capacity data;

          running a second software that determines the usage of the software products on the computer over time; and

10   correlating usage information obtained by the second software with computer capacity data obtained by the first software in a manner which restates the results of the software usage data based on variations over time of the computer capacity data.

2.   The method of claim 1, including basing the correlation on statistical analysis.

3.   The method of claim 1, including normalizing the usage data relative to computer capacity.

4.   The method of claim 1, including combining the computer capacity data with the usage data.

5.   The method of claim 4, including generating a plurality of output reports.

6.   The method of claim 4, including restoring combined data into a reporter of the second software so that the second software will operate on the restored data as though it was data which it had generated itself.

7.   The method of claim 1, including determining the capacity of the computer over time by developing a computer index representing variations of the computer capacity data over time.

8.   The method of claim 1, including running the first and second software as separate software programs.

9.   The method of claim 1, including a knowledge base and accessing the knowledge base and deriving from it information to compute the computer capacity data.

10.   The method of claim 9, including accessing the knowledge base via an application program interface.

11.   The method of claim 7, in which the computer index is calculated as a combination of one or more of a plurality of computer parameters selected from the group consisting of: MIPS, MSUs, CPU speed, number of processors, drystones, whetstones, and Model Groups.

12.   The method of claim 9, in which the knowledge base is a database that correlates various computer

indices according to a plurality of parameters including CPU, CPU to manufacturer, vendor to vendor's model groups.

13.   The method of claim 1, in which the first software develops the computer capacity data from data gathered by other computer programs and the other computer programs are selected from a group consisting of: a monitoring program, an operating system, and a technical license manager.

14.   The method of claim 1, in which the first program includes a facility for selecting data concerning the computer capacity data based on a selection criteria comprising one or more of: applying a filter to the computer capacity data; returning a computer index or other capacity information that corresponds to an earliest extracted event; using a knowledge base to determine computer capacity from CPU model data; performing user-specified calculations; and outputting data records of computing capacity event data.

15.   The method of claim 1, in which the first program selects capacity information in relation to filter specifications consisting of one or more of: a particular computer system; CPU; LPAR; a particular location or enterprise; and a period of time.

16. The method of claim 1, further including temporally stamping information stored in an event log which contains the computer capacity data.

17. The method of claim 1, further including processing computer capacity data to develop a capacity index comprising one or more of: average computer index, high watermark computer index, and number of CPUs.

18. The method of claim 1, in which the second software extracts information based on extraction specifications comprising one or more of: a particular computer system; CPU; LPAR, a particular location or enterprise; a particular software product; products by vendors; a user or group of users; and a period of time.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising producing combined data by combining data obtained by the first software and by the second software.

20. The method of claim 19, further including combining usage data with computer capacity event data as combined raw data records.

21. The method of claim 19, further including sorting, correlating, filtering and performing user-specified calculations relative to the combined data.

22.   The method of claim 1, further including storing output data in a file or database according to a user-specified format.

23.   The method of claim 1, further including sending output data to another computing facility.

24.   The method of claim 23, in which the computing facility comprises a central clearing house of such data.